

Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 /070 W

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R 070545Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9244

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 2355

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, MILI, CB

SUBJECT: JANUARY CASUALTIES

REF: (A) PHNOM PENH 1265

B. PHNOM PENH 1858

1. SUMMARY. BOTH SIDES TOGETHER SUFFERED AN ESTIMATED 25,000 CASUAL-
TIES IN THE FIRST MONTH OF THE KC DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE.
FANK TOOK ABOUT 2,400 KILLED OR MISSING, 3,500 SERIOUSLY
WOUNDED AND 3,400 LIGHTLY WOUNDED. ATTACKING KC TROOPS
LOST 4,600 KILLED AND A PROJECTED 11,000 WOUNDED. FANK
HAS ENOUGH MEN IN THE TRAINING PIPELINE TO COVER ITS LOSSES
BUT MUST RELY ON TRANSFERS OF TROOPS FROM DESK JOBS IF LOSSES
CONTINUE AT THE SAME RATE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE PACE OF FIGHTING FELL OFF TOWARD THE END OF JANUARY
BUT OVERALL CASUALTIES FOR THE MONTH STILL AVERAGED OVER
800 PER DAY. ATTACKING KC TROOPS LOST AN ESTIMATED 4,600
MEN IN ACTIONS IN THE PRIMARY AREAS OF THEIR NEW YEAR'S
DAY OFFENSIVE. IF THIS FIGURE IS ACCURATE, WE PROJECT
ANOTHER 11,000 KC WOUNDED. FANK REPORTS 2,400 DEAD AND
MISSING AND 6,900 WOUNDED (OF WHOM 3,400 ARE LIGHTLY WOUNDED
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AND SHOULD RETURN TO DUTY SHORTLY). OVERALL, 7,000

KHMER OF BOTH SIDES DIED AND ANOTHER 18,000 WERE WOUNDED.

3. FANK HAD ENOUGH MEN IN THE RECRUITMENT/TRAINING PIPELINE (REF B) TO REPLACE ITS KILLED AND SERIOUSLY WOUNDED. ALMOST 4,400 MEN RECEIVED ASSIGNMENTS FROM TRAINING CENTERS TO UNITS IN JANUARY AND THE RECRUITMENT CENTER INCORPORATED ANOTHER 2,100 DURING THE MONTH. THE NEW RECRUITS WILL NEED TRAINING (SIX WEEKS IF THEY GET THE FULL COURSE), AND THE ONLY WAY FANK CAN REPLACE LOSSES IN FEBRUARY IS THROUGH ITS ONGOING EFFORTS TO MOVE ALREADY TRAINED SOLDIERS FROM BEHIND DESKS TO THE FRONT LINES. THE SWEEP OF OFFICES AND HEADQUARTERS HAS SO FAR NETTED 900 OF A TARGETTED 10,000 CHAIR-BORNE TROOPERS FOR REASSIGNMENT.

4. ASSIGNING A MAN FROM A TRAINING CENTER AND GETTING HIM TO REPORT TO HIS UNIT IS A LONG AND CHANCY PROCESS. ALTHOUGH THE BULK OF OVER 700 REPLACEMENTS FOR THE 3RD DIVISION GOT ORDERS BY JANUARY 23, DIVISION OFFICERS REPORT THAT ONLY 157 HAD ARRIVED BY EARLY FEBRUARY. HARDER HIT UNITS, HOWEVER, HAVE DONE SOMEWHAT BETTER. THE 23RD BRIGADE NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH GOT 135 REPLACEMENTS OF 350 ASSIGNED; THE PARA BRIGADE HAS ABOUT 170 OF 250 PROMISED. ABOUT 550 OF 1000 REPLACEMENTS FOR THE MAULED 7TH DIVISION HAD REPORTED IN BY EARLY FEBRUARY. SOME RECRUITS DESERT ON THE WAY TO UNITS BUT THEY ARE NOT REPORTED IN THE MONTHLY TOTAL OF COMBAT DESERTIONS, WHICH REACHED 1,400 FOR JANUARY.

5. THE KC, HOWEVER, HAVE EMPTIED THEIR TRAINED MANPOWER BARREL. INDICATIONS ARE THAT THEY CAN STILL CONSCRIPT BUT THEIR JANUARY CONSCRIPTS ARE BEING SHIPPED STRAIGHT TO THE PHNOM PENH AND LOWER MEKONG FRONTS. IN THE PROVINCES THE KC ARE USING VILLAGE FORCES, THE SICK AND THE WOUNDED (EXCEPT AT SIEM REAP) TO KEEP THE PRESSURE ON GKR ENCLAVES.

6. FANK IS KEEPING PACE IN THE MANPOWER RACE. BUT, THE NAME OF THE GAME NOW IS NOT ONLY MANPOWER AND MANAGE-CONFIDENTIAL

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MENT, IT IS ALSO LEADERSHIP AND MOBILITY TO RESPOND TO KC INITIATIVES AROUND PHNOM PENH AND SUCCESSES ON THE LOWER MEKONG.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, COMBAT CASUALTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PHNOM02355
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750045-0242
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750262/aaaacdut.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 PHNOM PENH 1265
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JANUARY CASUALTIES
TAGS: MOPS, MILI, CB
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006